**Question and answer after the presentations from MERET project, GIZ-SLM Amhara and ARARI:**

**ARARI**

**Q –** ARARI – lots of recommendations are there but they are a bit general.

**A** **–**We focus on technology interventions as you go down or at low level. This is also my question. And want to discuss at this forum.

**Q** All projects have added some value to the community in terms of improving livelihood. Are there best practices that are run by the community and other government setup without the sponsorship of any donor or NGO?

**A** – Very good best practices – I just want to focus on the project successes. We did assessment and have brought best practices.

A –About water shed guideline. All the watersheds follow the guideline. The overall guideline is under utilization for the water sheds

**MERET project**

**Q** We are very successful at project level in different water sheds but I don’t hear what impact this projects are bringing to the neighboring water sheds and the same for the GIZ – what impacts have been made in the neighboring villages.

**A** – Most of the projects are using as a model including safety nets. Now Safety net is getting strong. Take an example in Tigray also in other regions like Oromia. And government mass mobilization is based on the best practices of MERET. Has it really expanded throughout the country – no…..The community is ready to take the technology but we need to work closely the technology. It is the problem of the extension system why it has not been up taken by the community. We have to question our extension system.

**Q —** Has a lot of best practices and physical outputs (rehabilitation of land, soil erosion decreased and livelihood indicators) Would like to hear whether there is some mind changes in the farmers which is important for sustainability. How do you evaluate the mind change of the farmer in those project sites.

A **—** We have various conservation structures. The structures need to be properly designed. The technical standards should be properly structured to have an effect. Follow standard and control quality to get best results.

**GIZ-SLM Amhara**

**Q** What viable structures have u used for soil conservation in the country?

**Q** Some of the water harvesting activities – the need for high demand of water. There is more discharging of water. The recharging and discharging What are the mechanisms of discharging water should have been discussed. In relation to Nile Basin which discharging should have been given more emphasis

**Comment to all the presenters:**

Want of hear the link of Bahir Dar University to all the projects and actors because when the projects fade out the major role should go to the Bahir Dar University and other Universities.

**Reflection from Yacob Wondimkun, USAID**

* We need to invest on community empowerment to bring about sustainability.
* Swedish CIDA – believes in long term commitment and interventions will be successful.
* The belief in research will bring success. We can take the example of Sekota.
* Long term commitment – it doesn’t mean too much budget but most of the activities was done by the communities. If we bring commitment of communities resource will not be an issue.
* We need to invest a lot in community empowerment.

**Reflection from (Zewdu Weletaw – GIZ SLM in Amhara region)**

* The land degradation issues is attributed to:
* Population pressure
* Rain fall
* Livestock
* We focus on soil and water conservation activities and livestock issue is neglected.
* We have huge livestock population
* We have to have a strategy for managing livestock
* Livestock need to be integrated in the water shed management
* Community organization – needs to be there and have to have their land use system.
* Livestock management should be considered in the area of natural resource management